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First Place**

By acquainting myself with in the philosophy of Dr. King's "The Beloved Community," his global vision which all people share in the wealth of the earth, I've learned that his teachings provided not only insight, but also actual practical methods to peacefully combat what he termed "Triple Evils:" Poverty, Racism and War. When we work together to fight these evils, we are moving closer to "The Beloved Community." The idea of a "beloved community" was a realistic and achievable goal for Dr. King.

When allowed to take part in Dr. King's dream, we can see the Earth as a place where, because of the true human decency, poverty and homelessness would not be tolerated. Racism and bigotry would be replaced by an awareness of true brotherhood and sisterhood. And the most daunting of human tragedies...war, would be replaced by peaceful conflict resolution instead of military might. If each person made some small step toward Dr. King's dream, each small step could turn our community into a better place. To reach this goal, each person must play his or her own small part.

My Personal Approach

I am very fortunate to have been raised in a home where prejudice is not an issue. I was taught that others are to be valued by the lives that they lead...not the color of their skin, religion or financial status. Therefore, keeping an open mind is just one small step I can perform to further the message of Dr. King in my home and community.

Joining Community Efforts to combat "The Three Evils"

I've uncovered several volunteer activities here in the Harrisburg area, where I can help the philosophy of Dr. King become reality.

To Combat Poverty

By volunteering at Habitat for Humanity, I can most importantly help a family in need of decent living conditions to rise above poverty-both physically and psychologically. This simple service would be seen under Dr. King's philosophy.

To Combat Racism

Community service opportunities exist within both the YMCA and at Big Brother, Big Sisters. By meeting, one on one to share my talents and ideals with a child or young teen, I can spread the word of the beauty of Dr. King's word regarding the development of basic human decency. This will help those who are experiencing racism to rise above their situation, and with hope, stop short of practicing prejudice within their own lives.

To Combat War

It is possible for members of our society to rise up in peaceful opposition to war. At the base level, each time I am respectful of another human being, I am laying the groundwork for peace. Differences can be viewed with respect, without need to control others or force our opinion or way of life upon them.

Dr. King teaches that a life commitment to service must be undertaken. This endeavor is not out of my reach. There is much power in the individual...a power that is made even greater when you work with others of a like mind.